

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 7, with the following paragraph:

~~Figure 2 shows Figures 2A and 2B show~~ the nucleic acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:4) and its derived amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:3) of pJST538, a plasmid encoding BAFF-R-Fc: nucleic acid residues 1-69, murine IgG-kappa signal sequence; nucleic acid residues 70-222, BAFF-R (nucleic acid residues 1-153); nucleic acid residues 223-906, human IgG.